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Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 - 18 and 20 - 22 are presently pending in the application. Claim 19 was previously canceled. As it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their previously presented form, the claims have not been amended to overcome the references.

In item 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1 - 2, 5, 7 - 8, 10 - 18 and 20 - 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U. S. Patent No. 6,058,844 to Niemiec ("**NIEMIEC**") in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,508,033 to Fischer ("**FISCHER**"), U. S. Patent No. 3,238,869 to West et al ("**WEST**") and U. S. Patent No. 3,875,682 to Justus et al ("**JUSTUS**"). In item 3 of the Office Action, claims 3 - 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over **NIEMIEC** in view of **FISCHER**, **WEST** and **JUSTUS**, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,550,390 to Frankenberger ("**FRANKENBERGER**"). In item 4 of the Office Action, claims 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious over **NIEMIEC** in view of **FISCHER**, **WEST** and **JUSTUS**, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 5,913,471 to Makosch et al ("**MAKOSCH**").

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections and reiterates and incorporates, by reference, the arguments made in the response to the previous Office Actions, with regard to why the present claims are believed to be patentable over the combination of references cited in the Office Action.

More particularly, Applicant's claims 1 and 7, recite, among other limitations:

> **A web-fed rotary printing press**, comprising:
>
> at least one press cylinder **for printing a paper web**; [emphasis added by Applicant]

Similarly, Applicant's independent claim 14 was amended to recite, among other limitations:

> A method for treating a printing material web **in a web-fed rotary printing press**, which further comprises:
>
> **feeding a paper web** to a press cylinder under a first tensile stress; [emphasis added by Applicant]

Applicant's claims are supported by the specification of the instant application, for example, on page 2 of the present application, lines 1 - 4, which state:

> In **web-fed rotary offset presses, a paper web** is usually unwound from a supply roll and guided through a number of **printing units**, which print the web, normally on both sides and in many colors, in a wet offset process. [emphasis added by Applicant]

See also, for example, page 16 of the instant application, lines 3 - 12, which state:

> Referring now to the figures of the drawing in detail and first, particularly, to Fig. 1 thereof, there is shown a diagrammatic, sectional view of **a machine 1 according to the invention, in this case a web-fed rotary offset press.**
>
> **The machine 1 contains a roll changer 2 with a supply roll 3 of a printing material web 4, preferably a paper web.** The web 4 is unwound in the roll changer 2 and, toward the end of unwinding the roll 3, can be joined to a new web, on-the-fly or at a standstill. [emphasis added by Applicant]

As such, Applicant's amended claims make it clear that the tensile stresses applied to the web are being applied **to a paper web of a web-fed rotary printing press.**

However, in response to Applicant's arguments, page 7 of the Office Action stated, in part:

> In response to Applicant's argument that the combination of references fails to teach or suggest reducing the tensile stress on a paper web to less than 50 N/m along the drying path, as discussed with the above rejection, although the references do not explicitly teach this level of tensile stress, one having ordinary skill in the art would recognized that the acceptable tensile stress would be highly dependent upon the type of material used in the paper web and the characteristics of that paper material and therefore the ideal values could be best determined through routine experimentation. **For example, a thin, paper web would react very differently to stress from a thick, coated, paper web.** Therefore applicant's arguments would appear to be based upon specific process limitations not included in the claims. [emphasis added by Applicant]

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the above statements made in the Office Action.

Applicant's claims clearly recite **a web-fed rotary printing press printing on a paper web**. Additionally, Applicant's claims further require, among other limitations, that the web-fed rotary printing press of Applicant's claims requires **the tensile stress** of the web downstream of the dryer **to be considerably reduced compared with the upstream tensile stress, with the downstream tensile stress being less than 50 N/m**. For example, claim 1 recites, among other limitations:

> a pull roll disposed downstream of said dryer for **conveying the paper web** along said path with a given tensile stress that **is considerably lower** than a tensile stress in a printing path upstream of said at least one press cylinder, **said given tensile stress being less than 50 N/m**; [emphasis added by Applicant]

Similarly, Applicant's independent claim 7 recites, among other limitations:

> a first pull roll disposed downstream of said dryer **to convey the paper web** along the path with **a** given tensile stress which is **considerably lower** than a tensile stress in a printing path upstream of said at least one press cylinder, **said given tensile stress being less than 50 N/m**; [emphasis added by Applicant]

Additionally, Applicant's independent claim 14 recites, among other limitations:

> **setting a second tensile stress of the paper web, being considerably reduced** as compared with the first tensile stress, along the drying path, **the second tensile stress being less than 50 N/m** [emphasis added by Applicant]

As such, Applicant's claims require, among other limitations, that the tensile stress of the **paper** web downstream of the dryer be considerably reduced compared with the upstream tensile stress (and with conventionally used tensile stresses on paper webs used in web-fed rotary printing presses), **the downstream tensile stress being less than 50 N/m.** The specification of the instant application clearly sets forth that the tensile stress of a **paper web of a web-fed rotary printing press** is, conventionally, 500 N/m. See, for example, page 24 of the instant application, lines 21 - 23.

In response to the above-arguments, page 8 of the Office Action states, in part:

> **In response to Applicant's argument that the conventional tensile stress for a printing path always has to be in the range of 500 N/m,** although applicant continues to insist that this is part of the general knowledge in the art, **there continues to be no reference to any outside source beyond applicant's disclosure of this figure.** As discussed above, there are many different types of paper used in paper webs and applicant's arguments appear to be based upon specific process limitations not included in the claims. [emphasis added by Applicant]

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the above-statements from the Office Action. First, Applicant disagrees that

"specific process limitation not included in the claims" are being argued. As shown above, Applicant's **claims require**, among other limitations, **a web-fed rotary printing press, printing on a paper web**, having a tensile stress of the web downstream of the dryer to be considerably reduced compared with the upstream tensile stress, **with the downstream tensile stress being less than 50 N/m**. As such, all limitations being argued by Applicant appear in the claims.

Additionally, Applicant disagrees with the statements made in the Office Action alleging that a thin, paper web would react very differently to stress from a thick, coated, paper web. To the contrary, a person of ordinary skill in this art would recognize that **a web-fed rotary printing press printing on paper** would have a web tension **much greater than 50 N/m in the drying section**, and more particularly, would have a web tension in the drying section within the range of 300 - 600 N/m, as is conventional in this art. In support of this practice in the art, Applicant is including herewith a Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 of Larry Zagar, a man having over 20 years of experience with printing presses, who is currently employed as the Director of Research and Development at Goss International Americas, Inc. In that Declaration, Larry Zagar confirms that:

> **Typical web tensions in the region of the drying path for newspaper and commercial web printing presses printing on paper are between 300 N/m and 600N/m.** [emphasis added by Applicant]

As such, Applicant's have provided documentary proof from a source outside the application document that conventional tensile stresses in the drying path for a web printing press printing on paper is between 300 N/m and 600 N/m, which is **much higher then Applicant's claimed tensile stress of less than 50 N/m**. As tensile stress in the drying path for a web printing press printing on paper is between 300 N/m and 600 N/m, that is what a person of ordinary skill in this art would use as the tensile stress in the drying path, when combining the cited references. Rather, a person of ordinary skill in this art would immediately conclude that a web tension in the printing section which outside of the typical range of 300 to 600 N/m would, inevitably, lead to a bad printing result and/or to web breaks.

As such, Applicant's claimed invention, would not be rendered obvious to a person of ordinary skill in this art from any possible combination of the references. More particularly, the prior art fails to teach or suggest, among other limitations of Applicant's claim, **conveying a paper web along a drying path using a given tensile stress that is considerably lower than a tensile stress in the upstream**

printing path, the tensile stress in the drying path being less than 50 N/m. This tensile stress is **not** within, or even close to being within, the conventional range of tensile stress applied to any type of paper web in a commercial web printing press printing on paper, and thus, would not be within the "routine experimentation" tried by a person of ordinary skill in this art.

The above limitations of Applicant's claims, among others, are not rendered obvious by the combination of **NIEMIEC** in view of **FISCHER**, **WEST** and **JUSTUS**, as alleged in the Office Action. Rather, as discussed in the response to the previous Office Action, the combination of **NIEMIEC** and **FISCHER** (as well as, in combination with **WEST** and **JUSTUS**) made in the Office Action would specifically teach a person of ordinary skill in this art **not** to use a second tensile stress of less than 50 N/m, and thus, would specifically **teach away** from Applicant's claimed invention.

More particularly, because, conventional rotary printing presses printing on paper use a tensile stress of between 300 N/m and 600 N/m [see the Declaration of Larry Zagar] in the drying path, absent a specific teaching in one of the references to reduce the tensile stress to less than 50 N/m, contrary to convention, the combination of references would

not render obvious Applicant's claimed invention. None of the cited prior art references teach or suggest using such a conventional tensile stress in the printing section and, then, reducing the tensile stress to less than 50 N/m in the drying path of a rotary web-fed printing press paper printing (i.e., which tensile stress is considerably lower than a tensile stress in the upstream printing path). Rather, in an attempt to read this limitation into the reference, page 4 of the Office Action stated, in part:

> Although Niemiec does not explicitly teach controlling the second tensile stress to a value less than 50 N/m, one having ordinary skill in the art would recognize that the acceptable tensile stress would be highly dependent upon the type of material used in the paper web and therefore **the ideal values could be best determined through routine experimentation.** [emphasis added by Applicant]

Applicant respectfully disagrees that a person of ordinary skill in this art would ever "through routine experimentation" attempt a value of less than 300 N/m, the lowest tensile stress used in conventional rotary paper printing press. Rather, although a person of ordinary skill may experiment between the conventionally accepted ranges of 300 N/m and 600 N/m, nothing in the art or in the general knowledge would motivate a person of ordinary skill in this art to try a tensile stress of less than 50 N/m in the drying section of the rotary paper printing press. As stated above, **a person of ordinary skill in this art would immediately conclude that a**

web tension in the printing section which outside of the typical range of 300 to 600 N/m would, inevitably, lead to a bad printing result and/or to web breaks.

Applicant has provided documentary evidence of the conventional practice in this art, in the form of the Declaration of Larry Zagar. In the event that the present rejection of the claims is maintained, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide a reference showing the use of a tensile stress of less than 50 N/m in the drying path of a web-fed rotary paper printing press, that tensile stress being greatly reduced from the tensile stress in the upstream printing press, as required by Applicant's claims. Applicant believes that the absence of any such teaching in the art helps evidence the non-obviousness of Applicant's claimed invention. Thus, in the absence of such documentary proof showing the use of such a reduced downstream tensile stress in the drying path of a web-fed rotary paper printing press, Applicant respectfully maintains that the presently claimed invention would **not** be obvious to a person of ordinary skill, in view of the cited references.

It is accordingly believed that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, teach or suggest the features of claims 1, 7 and 14. Claims 1, 7 and 14 are,

therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claims 1, 7 or 14.

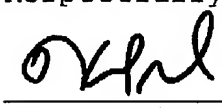
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 - 18 and 20 - 22 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

If an extension of time for this paper is required, petition for extension is herewith made.

Please charge any fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP, No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,



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